

CLAIMS

1. A confocal endomicroscope comprising a light
5 source (2), a fiber optic bundle (9) having a proximal
end (8) and a distal end (15), and a micromirror unit
(4) for injecting the light from the light source (2)
into the proximal end (8) of the fiber optic bundle
(9), characterized in that the diameter of the optical
10 fibers (10) of the fiber optic bundle (9) is greater at
the proximal end (8) than at the distal end (15).
2. The confocal endomicroscope as claimed in claim
1, characterized in that the optical fibers (10) taper
15 essentially conically from the proximal end (8) to the
distal end (15).
3. The confocal endomicroscope as claimed in claim
1 or 2, characterized in that the ratio of the
20 diameters of the optical fibers (10) at the proximal
end (8) to the diameters of the optical fibers (10) at
the distal end (15) is at most 3.
4. The confocal endomicroscope as claimed in one
25 of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the optical
fibers (10) are arranged in a fixed grid at the
proximal end (8) of the fiber optic bundle (9).
5. The confocal endomicroscope as claimed in claim
30 4, characterized in that a fiber holding unit (11) with
openings to hold the proximal fiber ends is provided
for the arrangement in a grid.
6. The confocal endomicroscope as claimed in one
35 of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that a microlens
unit (13) is arranged in the radiation direction before
the proximal end (8) of the fiber optic bundle (9), so
that the light is focused by the individual microlenses

(14) onto the proximal end (8) of the illuminated optical fibers (10).